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Grackles at Nest

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The cover picture is a reproduction of Edwin Sheppard's painting of the Purple Grackle made in the late 1800's and included in Thomas G. Gentry's book, *Nest and Eggs of Birds of the United States* (Philadelphia, 1882). Gentry, a well known ornithologist of his era, and a member of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, states in his work that grackles are such "vigorous feeders, that both the male and the female are frequently compelled to be absent from the nest simultaneously in the procurement of food." Howard P. Jones in his paper appearing in this issue also mentions the occasional absence of the pair from the nest.

THE COMMON GRACKLE—A NESTING STUDY

HOWARD P. JONES

In 1967 I noted the presence of a number of nests of the Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) in the general vicinity of my home. Most of these nests were reasonably accessible and suggested to me the possibility of making a detailed study of the breeding habits of this common species. The scarcity of precise Kentucky records for this species (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, 1965, p. 449) indicated the desirability of such a study; therefore, I began work on this project in the spring of 1968.

The study area consisted of approximately six acres, located along KY 1689, two miles northeast of Forks of Elkhorn, in Franklin County. The area is rural, with six residences nearby within one-fourth mile. The land has been used primarily for pasture, with a central area of about three acres becoming overgrown with bushes and young trees. The majority of the trees are American elm (*Ulmus americana*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), wild plum (*Prunus americana*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), wild cherry (*Prunus serotina*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and Osage orange (*Machlura pomifera*). These range up to 50 feet in height with most under 25 feet. This is a well-drained area with a small intermittent stream at one side.

In February, I checked the area to locate nests, if any, of the previous year. In the immediate study area I found only an old nest of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) and nothing else that could be mis-identified as a nest of the year. Nearby, outside the main study area, were a few old nests of Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) and Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) in small hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) trees.

Common Grackles were virtually absent from Franklin County during the 1967-68 winter season. However, ten individuals were seen in the study area on March 2, 1968. Numbers increased rapidly from scattered individuals on March 7 to many individuals and flocks on March 9. Courtship flights were in evidence shortly after arrival and there were almost constant vocalizations from dawn to dusk.

The nesting season began in late March. I recorded two completely built nests on March 28, and another on March 29, with two others partially constructed. A general survey of the area on April 6, 7, and 8, revealed the completion of 28 nests and 17 others under construction. It seems unbelievable, but in all my observations during the period, I never once saw a grackle carrying nesting material.

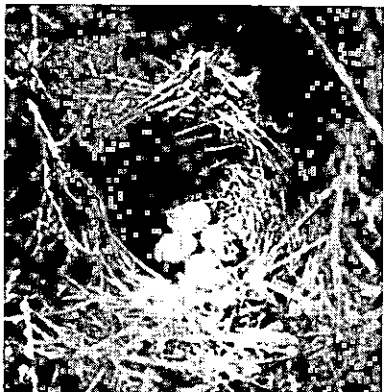
It may be well to describe the marking and observation techniques used. As each nest was located, it was assigned a number which was fixed securely to the tree trunk or a nearby branch. I used white tape with a black marker. Appropriate entries were made daily in a notebook which I carried on each visit. Where possible, nests were viewed directly from the ground, or by climbing. Others were viewed by means of a bicycle mirror mounted on a 12-foot bamboo rod (three sections). The contents of some few nests could not be seen by any available method. Eggs were not

marked to denote sequence. Visits to nests were made March 28, 29, 30; April 6 through 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; and May 1 through 9, 12, 13. On most of these days a complete survey was made, which took about two hours daily. Trips were usually made in the afternoon from about 5-7 p.m.; however, some visits were made from 6-7 a.m., or near noon. A few nests were visited several times in one day during hatching.

In all, my records are of 90 separate nests, all of which involved at least a recognizable effort at nest construction. Of the 90, there were nine which were only partially constructed and were not completed. No generalizations can be made concerning these except that some were begun where there appeared to be inadequate support for the nest. Fourteen additional nests were completely constructed in excellent sites, but no eggs were ever laid in them. One nest (counted once in the total of 90) contained two separate clutches. Three nests were impossible to see into, but had adult females flushed from them at least once. It is uncertain whether eggs were laid in them.

Although a wide choice of nest sites was available, the grackles showed a marked preference for red cedars, particularly in the early nestings before the development of other foliage. Fifty-two nests were in red cedars, 14 in honey locusts, 12 in American elms, two in black locusts, two in Osage orange trees, two in wild cherry, two in hawthorns, and one each in wild plum, white ash, sycamore, and a wild grape tangle.

The average height of nests above the ground was approximately 12½ feet, while the median height was 10 feet (2½ feet to 35 feet). Nests in American elms averaged 18 feet in height, nests in honey locusts averaged nine feet, and all others averaged 12½ feet.



previous season; however, no trace of the cuckoo nest had remained.

The nests were rather large, bulky, well constructed, and deeply cupped; they were composed of twigs, coarse grasses, weed stems, plastered with mud, and lined with soft grasses. Nests in cedars were supported in the dense foliage and often well up in the tree. In large deciduous trees they generally were in a fork of the main trunk. One nest was in a shallow natural cavity of a black locust. One pair of grackles took over a 1967 Brown Thrasher nest near the study area and added a great deal of new material. One pair selected the exact site of a Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) nest of the

It was not unusual to find more than one active nest in one tree; a red cedar contained as many as three, all within eight feet of each other. A number of the nests in separate trees were within 20 to 30 feet of other active nests.

I was surprised by the length of interval between apparent nest completion and the laying of the first egg in the first nestings. From the time I first saw a completed nest until the first egg was laid there was an average lapse of nine days. In one nest (G-18) there was an interval of 26 days (April 7-May 3) from the time of nest completion until the laying of the first egg. One thing I did note was that eggs were not laid in a nest until the mud portion was dry. Apparently the nest had to have a certain dryness, and so long as the nest bottom was damp, it remained empty. There appeared to be no relationship in the early nests to the condition of the foliage. There seemed to be no pattern to the beginning of egg laying. Even though many nests were complete for days, the laying did not begin in such a uniform way as to suggest relationship to temperature or precipitation, etc.

On April 6 the first eggs were found. They were in three nests which had been empty on April 3. Two nests contained one egg, while another contained two. Probably, then, the first egg was laid on April 5. Egg-laying continued in various nests, with the last recorded egg laid on May 12. Possibly later dates would have been recorded if my study had not terminated at this point, when the landowner cleared the main study area by bulldozing the area.

There were seven nests for which I felt that I had sufficient data to indicate certainly a complete clutch of eggs. For these I observed the nest empty, followed by a single egg on the subsequent day, followed by daily visits to the nest until the maximum number of eggs was reached with no additional egg on the succeeding days. Based on these data the average clutch contained five eggs. There were 31 other nests in which these rigid criteria were not adhered to absolutely, but which had a day missed in the observation at some point. Adding these clutches, which I feel were complete and accurate, gave an average complement per clutch of 4.7 eggs. There were two clutches which I felt were complete with three eggs, and one clutch with six eggs. Ordinarily one egg was laid each day until the clutch was complete; however, three clutches required one more day to complete than the number of eggs. The second, fourth, and fifth eggs were delayed in these clutches.

Eggs were laid quite early in the morning. I visited nests early on several occasions and always found an additional egg where a clutch was incomplete. A few times the female was on the nest although the egg had already been laid. I would speculate that egg laying was accomplished before sunrise.

The eggs of the grackle were rather large, uniform in size, and colorful. Most had a background color of light blue, although some were almost greenish-white in the lightest phase, grading to a darker phase of reddish-blue. Streaks or blotches of black, brown, or lavender were scattered in a variable pattern over the surface. Most eggs in a given clutch looked much alike.

Cowbird parasitism was not observed in any of the nests in the study area. Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were in the area and flew over daily, although I did not observe any individual which seemed to have an established territory in the study locale.

Incubation was at its peak from about April 15, with most clutches completed about that time. The adult was not at the nest during a large part of the time during the incubation period. There were some nests I concluded were deserted since no adult was ever seen there or nearby; however, this proved not to be true. The birds resented intrusions more and more as incubation continued. I was able to identify the female as the incubating parent in most instances. However, on one or two occasions I was not so sure that I had not flushed the male. Gross stated (Bent 1958) that the task of incubation was performed by the female only. Certainly this was usually true.

Determining the length of the incubation period was difficult, since it involved knowing both when the last egg was laid and when the last young was hatched. Of the 12 nests where sufficient data were known, there were eight nests with an incubation period of 14 days and four with a period of 13 days. No determination of the duration of the incubation period in hours was possible.

My data on length of time required to complete hatching are inadequate to support conclusions, but worth noting. Of the several nests visited during hatching the best record is as follows: A visit at 6:00 p.m. April 21 showed three eggs and one young just emerging from the shell, which had broken apart across the short axis. A visit at 6:30 a.m. April 22 disclosed two young and two eggs, with the female on the nest. A visit at 12:00 noon April 22 showed the female incubating one egg and brooding three young. A visit at 6:00 p.m. April 22 showed three young and one egg. A visit at 7:00 a.m. April 23 showed four young. Four other nests were also observed for hatching time, but not as regularly. These showed at least 24 hours needed to accomplish complete hatching. Egg shells were removed promptly. Unhatched eggs disappeared within a few days after the hatching was completed.

The young were quite poorly developed at hatching. They were practically naked, helpless, and entirely dependent upon the parents for food. By the second or third day they had become more alert, and by the fifth or sixth day they were active, became noisy, and begged with open mouths for food upon any disturbance at the nest. By the ninth or tenth day the nestlings reacted to disturbances by withdrawing into the nest and remaining silent. They were now becoming feathered and showed many large feather sheaths. Four sets of young were followed completely from hatching to leaving the nest. The first fledgling left the nest on May 9. In three nests the nestlings left the nest at 14 days, and in one at 15 days. It is possible they might have remained longer if I had not been checking the nests. Bent (1958) indicated young leave the nest at 18 days and may stay longer if not disturbed.

Nesting success seemed surprisingly low. Young were fledged from seven of the 42 nests in which eggs were laid and my data were continuous to either fledging or destruction by natural agents. Other data of interest showed that (1), of a sample of 53 nests in which egg laying began, 46 (87%) completed the clutch before destruction by natural agents; (2), of a sample of 39 nests in which a clutch was completed, 22 (56%) hatched young before destruction by natural agents; (3), of a sample of 19 nests in which hatching was accomplished, seven (37%) were successful in

fledging young. It appears that nests with young are more vulnerable to destruction than those with eggs. A number of factors, including the noises and activity of the young, probably contribute to this. Being near fledging apparently does not protect the young, as one brood was destroyed at 11 days after hatching and three broods were destroyed at 12 days.

There were a number of agents of predation known to be in the area during the nesting period. Birds known to be predatory included the Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and the grackle itself. There were no hawk or owl nests or territories in the vicinity and none of these were seen at anytime during the study. On two or three occasions stray house cats were seen in the area. Other predatory mammals known to be present included squirrels, foxes, opossums, raccoons, and skunks. Undoubtedly snakes were present.

It is my opinion that most nest destruction was carried out by birds and particularly Blue Jays. On a number of occasions a band of jays went into the area and were set upon by the grackles. At other times crows caused great disturbances. I never actually saw any acts of predation, but I know that one agent was responsible for many of these because of the characteristic way the empty nests were left. Nests with young were always completely robbed. Only in young becoming feathered were any traces left other than the nest. I am assuming that grackles do not rob other grackles since I have no evidence of this from any observation.

The first nest destruction occurred on April 18, at which time three eggs were taken and the nest disarranged. At this time there was no evidence of any nests under construction anywhere in the area. Every day brought new nest losses. On April 30, almost simultaneously, several new nests were under construction. These were each located in American elms much higher than the earlier nests. No cedars were used. Also, these nests, which I assumed to be re-nestings, seemed generally to be less bulky than the earlier nests. The first egg in these was noted May 2, in a nest I would have thought incomplete judging by early nest size standards. Due to habitat destruction only four of these new nests reached the point of clutch completion. These nests had an average complement of 4.75 eggs. Three other nests had five, five, and four eggs each, respectively, when destroyed. On May 4, egg laying began in G-4, a nest which had earlier lost a set of five eggs to predation. Another clutch of five eggs was laid in this nest. I am assuming that these late nestings were by pairs which had lost earlier nests to predators. They could not have been second broods since no young fledged before May 8 and 9. They could have been first nestings, but this seems unlikely.

The latest grackle nesting of which I had record was a nest outside the study area by several hundred yards. On May 18 this nest had four eggs, on May 24 there were three young, and on June 1 there were three young ready to fledge. From this record and the date of my earliest fledging records, there is no indication that any grackle in the study area could have been two-brooded.

There were active nests of other species of birds in the area despite the concentration of grackles. These nests were also checked regularly as

the visits to grackle nests were made. Included were the nests of 10 Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*), four Robins (*Turdus migratorius*), two Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*), and one Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*). Of these only three were known to have been definitely destroyed by predation, with three others possibly by predation or by storms. One Robin nest (R-1) was completely open and exposed on a bare honey locust limb 15 feet below an active grackle nest and within 40 feet of another grackle nest. It was flown over innumerable times by grackles, yet fledged three young. The habits of grackles in destroying the eggs and young of other birds are well known.

Summary

Observations of nests and nest building, eggs, incubation, young and their development, and nesting success of the Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) gathered from a study of 90 nests are presented. Data were gathered from March 28, 1968, to June 1, 1968, in a rural area of eastern Franklin County, Kentucky.

Initial nest construction began in late March and was largely completed by April 10. There was a marked preference for the evergreen, red cedar, in early nestings. Average height of nests was 12½ feet. Some nests were constructed within a few feet of others in almost a colonial arrangement.

Egg laying began in early April. Eggs were ordinarily laid daily and the mean clutch was 4.7 eggs. Re-nestings showed the same mean. There was no evidence of parasitism. Incubation required 13 to 14 days. The first young left the nest on May 8. The young left the nest in 14 or 15 days after hatching.

Nesting success was low. Predation was a marked factor in this. For nests in which eggs were laid, and adequate data were available, only seven of 42 were successful in having young leave the nest. Blue Jays and Common Crows were believed to be responsible for most nest losses. After unsuccessful nesting, some re-nestings occurred. There was no evidence of two-broodedness.

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WINTER NOTES FROM CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN

JOSEPH E. CROFT

The higher mountains of eastern Kentucky have long been of interest to zoologists for the occurrence there of forms not found elsewhere in the state. A number of observers have studied and reported on the breeding birds of these areas, commenting especially on the presence of more characteristically "northern" species. However, no one seems previously to have visited the higher elevations—the ridges lying generally above the 3,000-foot contour, defined by Mengel (*Birds of Kentucky*, 1965, pp. 27-36) as the "Cumberland Crest avifaunal region"—to investigate the winter birdlife there. With this aim, I spent the period December 30, 1968, to January 2, 1969, accompanied by my dog, camping on the higher parts of Cumberland Mountain, within Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

The Kentucky-Virginia line here follows the crest of Cumberland Mountain, running northeastward from the Pinnacle, elevation 2,500 feet; overlooking Cumberland Gap, to the highest point on the mountain, 3,513 feet at Bailes Meadow, some 15 miles distant, thence to nearby White Rocks at the northeastern extremity of the park. A National Park Service trail along the crest of the mountain runs above the 3,000-foot contour for some seven miles. The ridge area in the northeastern section of the park comprises the highest elevations in Kentucky away from the various ridges of Black Mountain. Most of the Kentucky portion of the 20,184-acre, tri-state (Kentucky-Virginia-Tennessee) park lies in Bell County, with the exception of the most northeasterly area, lying within Harlan County. The greater portion of the park has been proposed for designation as a Wilderness Area under provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Most of the area is covered with a rather heavy second-growth deciduous forest characteristic of the southern Appalachians. In some places there are fine growths of Catawba rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Some of the best rhododendron growths are to be found along two picturesque streams, Shillelagh Creek and Martin's Fork of the Cumberland River. A limited amount of hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is present along these streams and in some coves; a small area of timber near the headwaters of Martin's Fork is reputedly virgin growth. There are two major open areas on the higher elevations. One is the Hensley Settlement, an old mountain community inhabited until the early 1950's and now being restored by the Park Service; here are a number of open fields, a few brushy areas, and some pine plantings about 12 years old. The other is Bailes Meadow, an area of some 20 acres (formerly extending some two miles in a narrow band along the crest), now growing up to broom sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) and, along the edges, mountain laurel, shining sumac (*Rhus copallina*), blackberry (*Rubus* sp.), and other woody growth.

I entered the park from the eastern end, at Ewing, Virginia, arriving on the summit late in the afternoon of December 30, and camping there for the night. The following day I hiked to the old Culp cabin, now used as a trail shelter, near Chadwell's Gap (elevation 3,160 feet), making few observations on account of the weather. On January 1 I made the

Christmas Bird Count reported elsewhere in this issue, and the following day returned northeastward, stopping at Sand Cave and White Rocks, two striking geological features, before descending to the valley later in the afternoon.

The weather was initially mild, 45° at Ewing in mid-afternoon of December 30, and 36° on the summit that evening. It rained moderately the first night, when a dense fog moved in over the mountain, continuing throughout the following day. Temperatures dropped sharply the afternoon of December 31, bringing sleet, followed in the evening by winds and a clearing sky; by the following morning the temperature was down to 2°. January 1 was clear and very cold (15° in the sun at 2 p.m.), the following day slightly warmer.

Birds, as expected, were scarce on these exposed ridges. As the Christmas Count figures indicate, the Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) was easily the most widespread bird, foraging in small groups occasionally accompanied by other birds. The Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) evidently enjoys a fair population in this area; on December 31 I flushed about 25 of these birds, most of them feeding near the trail in the heavy fog. Most of these were in small groups of about three birds; however, a group of at least eight birds was flushed from the edge of the clearing about the cabin.

Two Screech Owls (*Otus asio*) sang at dusk on January 1 from a hemlock-rhododendron glade along Martin's Fork. Pileated (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Hairy (*Dendrocopos villosus*), and Downy (*D. pubescens*) Woodpeckers were recorded, but in surprisingly small numbers. A single Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinensis*), seemingly a rare bird in the Cumberlands (Mengel, p. 296), was recorded on the Virginia side on January 2, at about 2,300 feet. Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) occasionally drifted over the mountain, singly or in pairs. Small numbers of Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*), Tufted Titmice (*P. bicolor*), and Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*) were recorded, and only a single White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*).

The most interesting bird recorded was a chickadee identified as a Black-capped (*Parus atricapillus*) and reported on my Christmas Count of January 1. This bird, moving alone through small pines and brush edge at the Hensley Settlement, struck me immediately as being different from a Carolina Chickadee. The larger size, buffier flanks, and greater amount of white in the wings, observed at 20 feet, are of course only relative characters and are less than definitive. The "chickadee" call, being lower pitched than the Carolina's and notably slower, particularly in the final, emphatic notes, is probably a more dependable field distinction, and was given several times by this bird.

Though unable to claim extensive acquaintance with this species, I have previously observed small numbers of Black-capped Chickadees in central Maryland (winter birds) and in the Great Smoky Mountains. Mengel (p. 522) includes this species among those "recorded on inadequate grounds" for Kentucky, and a specimen record is, of course, still needed for the state. As Mengel notes, the midwestern range of the Black-capped Chickadee seems to have shrunk northward in recent years, making the

species' appearance from that quarter more unlikely. More recently, however, there have been indications of small populations of this bird spread more widely in the southern Appalachians than was formerly suspected (see, e.g., Scott, *Raven*, 37:33-36, 1966; also Scott, *Raven*, 35:41, 1964), and the appearance of occasional winter birds in parts of southeastern Kentucky would not be surprising.

A few Winter Wrens (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) were observed, usually in rhododendron tangles near water. One Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), a species seemingly little known at any season at higher elevations in Kentucky, was observed in rhododendron at Indian Rock, elevation 3,000 feet, on January 1. An occasional American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) flew overhead, and small numbers of Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) were seen.

While at the Hensley Settlement I stopped to talk with the one man living there; born in the area in 1913, he is now employed by the National Park Service. As the talk turned to birds, he remarked that the one bird of particular interest in the area was the "mountain grouse"; he also said a covey of "quail" had been present around the settlement the previous year, but were now gone. He mentioned that the only eagle he had ever seen had been one shot by his grandfather, evidently around 1920. Of other animals, he said that a bear had been reported killed in 1906 or 1907, and that none had been known since. A modest population of deer frequents the area, and he stated that bobcats are numerous (at least one newspaper account has indicated that this animal is also thriving elsewhere in southeastern Kentucky). The only mammals which I personally observed were a single Whitetail Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and what I took to be a Hairytail Mole (*Parascalops breweri*).

Thus, in three full days on the mountain I recorded only 16 species of birds, only two of them (Ruffed Grouse and Golden-crowned Kinglet) in numbers exceeding 20 individuals. One additional species (Red-bellied Woodpecker) was recorded only on the Virginia side, and much below the crest. Numerous other birds, of course, were present in the valley, but no attempt was made to seek them out or study them. Both the general scarcity of birdlife along the mountain crest and the species observed were essentially what would be expected in the area at this season, judging by winter reports from mountain ridges elsewhere in the southern Appalachians. More favorable weather conditions might have resulted in the recording of more birds, including perhaps a few additional species. But at any rate it is now possible to make a few definite statements regarding the winter birds of Kentucky's "Cumberland Crest." This, of course, is only a very small beginning; plainly there is much more to be learned through future winter visits to these high and lonely places.

—2366 Gladstone Avenue, Louisville 40205

TURKEY VULTURE	1	2				2			1	*		*	12	1	7	
BLACK VULTURE				16					6	1	*	*		17	4	
SHARP-SH. HAWK	1	1									3					1
COOPER'S HAWK											1	1	3	1	1	
RED-T. HAWK	12	4	2	4	3	5	4	1	4	2	4	8	8	7	3	
RED-SH. HAWK	1	2		2	1	3	1	1	2	2	3	1			1	
ROUGH-L. HAWK								2					2			
GOLDEN EAGLE	5	1														
BALD EAGLE	16	5									*	*				
MARSH HAWK											1	1	2		1	
PEREGRINE FALCON											*	*				
SPARROW HAWK	5	2	1	5	1	7	17	16	15	2	8	12	44	27	16	8
RUFFED GROUSE														1		
BOBWHITE	73	1	64	1	11	21		50	33	39	8	18	35		8	6
AMERICAN COOT	36			480					1		6	*	23		3	
KILLDEER	12	1		5	1				1		*		44	21	9	1
AMERICAN WOODCOCK						3	2	1	2	1			7	1	1	
COMMON SNipe	1			2							2		14			
HEERING GULL	135		14			1						*	156			
RING-B. GULL	583															
BONAPARTE'S GULL	2															
MOURNING DOVE	265	3	86	33	1	18	45	65	215		135	102	189	121	43	155
BARN OWL											1		1			
SCREECH OWL						1				1	1					2
GREAT HORNED OWL						2	1			1		2				
BARN OWL						1	1	2	3	1	2		1	1	1	
BELTED KINGFISHER	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	4	3	8	5	6	2
YELLOW-SH. FLICKER	20	11	3	17	9	1	24	20	13	10	25	11	23	8	11	4
PILEATED WOODPECKER	7	3	1		1	4		3	9	27	8	9	1	2	4	2
RED-B. WOODPECKER	22	14	13	15	11	10	26	31	39	17	29	25	20	7	21	3
RED-H. WOODPECKER	1	1		11		19	18	1	1				1	1	3	1
YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER	1	1	2	1	5	2	2	1	4	2	4	8	1	1	2	2
HAIRY WOODPECKER	3	5	2	*	3	5	18	5	7	9	2	9	5	3	6	1
DOWNY WOODPECKER	15	5	7	10	10	13	10	37	17	56	22	21	26	41	51	4
EASTERN PHOEBE	1			1					4				1			22
HORNED LARK	6	42				20			21		4	20	5	62	218	8
BLUE JAY	73	60	19	58	1	38	113	60	84	3	40	76	33	11	17	6

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1968-1969

	L-B-LAKES	MURPHY'S POND	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYVILLE	HENDERSON	SORGOH	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	LEXINGTON	WILLARD	HENSLEY SETTLEMENT
COMMON CROW	88	117		9	23	219	57	30	148	73	39	104	111	6821	698	2	121	4	2
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE			7	5	39	26	70	43	38	77	51	48	73	161	73	19	49	9	1
CAROLINA CHICKADEE	19	14	9	19	24	32	112	40	59	89	68	50	72	121	64	6	36	14	6
TUFTED TITMOUSE	34	6		3	3	3	9	8	8	38	11	8	8	9	5		5	3	*
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	8	1	1		4	1		2		3		2	3	6			1		
RED-BR. NUTHATCH	3	*			6	2	10	2	7	13	*	3	2	1	7		3		1
BROWN CREEPER	3	3	1		6		17	8	1	3	3	3	1	1	3		2	1	2
WINTER WREN			1		6														
BEWICK'S WREN																			
CAROLINA WREN	6	15	2	4	10	7	5	21	8	24	9	25	32	8	38	3	9	5	1
MOCKINGBIRD	8	6	16	8	4	13	27	14	49	1	35	22	63	32	30	3	21	2	
BROWN THRASHER	1			*			1	4			*	1	*						
ROBIN	5	2	2	14	50	3	20	1	1	8	21	4	70	3	403	173	7		
HERMIT THRUSH		*					1	1		3	1								
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	7	1	4	1	7	20	6	28	17	25	34	21	56	18	52	10	5	12	
GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET	16	6	2	6	54	1	7	12	1	94	*	10	11	7	9	1	1		17
RUBY-CR. KINGLET	5		5	*	2	8		3		2				1				3	
WATER PIPIT														20					
CEDAR WAXWING				9	2	25	30	30	12	5	6	72	75		25	25			
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	1	9		1	2	2	3	1	9		2	*	5	3	1		*		
STARLING	19	115		500000	18	380	1802	120	1203925	30	572	63	353750	3280	540		2169		
MYRTLE WARBLER				1	3		2	1	1	15	*	5	5		7	12	2		
HOUSE SPARROW	6	11	200	22	8	197	201	93	325	5	124	64	325	616	104		112	16	
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	158	43	7	72	16	9	108	131	84		78	175	123	79	35		45		

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1968-1969

Again this year the Mid-Winter Bird Count created much enthusiasm and excitement across the state, in spite of the fact that many K.O.S. members trudged through rain and sleet, and encountered high winds. Considering these obstacles the count was quite good. One hundred and three species were recorded, with two additional species for the count period, making a grand total of 4,919,377 individual birds. We had 20 organized counts, covering such diverse habitats as the cypress swamp of Murphey's Pond and, for the first time, the crest of Cumberland Mountain. No extreme rarities were found, with the exception of the Black-capped Chickadee. Other species lending interest included Blue-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, American Woodcock, Brown Thrasher, Evening Grosbeak, and Oregon Junco.

More than 4,000 Canada Geese and well over 500 Hooded Mergansers at Land Between the Lakes represented striking increases over last year's figures of 1,597 and 11, respectively. Hawks were well represented throughout the state, although Red-tailed and Red-shouldered were down somewhat.

Woodcocks were reported from four areas, although only one count included details for this unexpected bird. Water Pipits were listed but no details were given. Blackbirds were rather widespread, with large roosts at Madisonville, Bowling Green, and Louisville. There was some invasion of the Evening Grosbeak this winter, although few were on the counts. However, they have been seen in fair numbers at other times throughout the state. Few Pine Siskins appeared on the lists.

Several species unusual for this time of year were deleted from the counts for lack of substantiating details. We hope all compilers will make every effort to carefully screen all reports of unusual birds and submit only those for which adequate details of observation have been given. Such details should, as requested in previous years, be included in full when the count is submitted to the editor.

THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Highway 453 and Mulberry Flat Road; lake and river shores 30%, fields 30%, deciduous woods 40%).—Dec. 23; 6:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 26° to 28°; wind NW, 13-18 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 36 (17 on foot, 19 by car); total party-miles, 212 (14 on foot, 198 by car). Total, 67 species, 10,102 individuals.

We had a raw, rather gray day but visibility was fair, all the same. The count was devoid of surprises. The least common species for this count was the Red-breasted Merganser, carefully observed and reported by Chesley Kemp and Lawrence Philpotts. The large number of Hooded Mergansers was somewhat unusual.

Probably because of the hunting along the shores of both large lakes,

there was a fine concentration of Canada Geese and ducks, chiefly Mallards and Black Ducks, on Hematite Lake.

Golden Eagles, both adult and immature, seem to be on the increase as winter visitors to our area as reflected by both Christmas Counts and Midwinter Bald Eagle Censuses. Vultures, of both species, on the other hand, have virtually ceased to be winter visitors in Land Between the Lakes, at least north of US 68. The same can be said of Great Blue Herons.—Evelyn Cole, Willard Gray, Chesley Kemp, Edwin Larson, Kenneth Leggett, Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence Philpotts, Charles Skaggs, Robert Smith, Paul Sturm, Ed Veazy.

MURPHEY'S POND (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the main pool of Murphey's Pond, including points along the north and western edge of the Pond, Baltimore Bottoms, and adjoining farmlands).—Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Partly cloudy with rain in late afternoon; temp. 40° to 54°; wind S, 1-5 m.p.h. Three observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 10.5 (7.5 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles, 44.5 (4.5 on foot, 40 by car). Total, 49 species, 3,160 individuals.

This count, the third taken in this area, produced the best results in terms of both species and individuals. Three species were also added to the total count list. The American Woodcock was heard about 6:30 a.m.; it was emitting a series of low nasal calls, followed by a twittering trill. The White-crowned Sparrows were found mainly in one flock.—Chesley Kemp, Edwin Larson (compiler), Kenneth Leggett.

MARION (same area as in past years).—Dec. 25; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cold; temp. 25° to 35°; wind NE, 0-5 m.p.h. Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (6-8 on foot, ? by car); total party-miles, ? (20 on foot, ? by car). Total, 46 species, 1,150 individuals. Other species recorded during the week of the count: Canada Goose, Blue Goose, and Purple Finch. Although few ducks were recorded on the count, the Ohio River was full of ducks of all our regular species the first week of January 1969.—C. L. Frazer (compiler), Jim Frazer.

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center W. W. Hancock Farm; Elk Creek, Brown Road, KY 892, Lake Pewee, and east Madisonville; deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open fields 20%).—Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 31° to 37°; wind NW, 1-7 m.p.h. Three observers in 1 party in morning; 1 observer in afternoon. Total party-hours, 9 (? on foot, ? by car). Total party-miles, 41 (6 on foot, 35 by car). Total, 53 species, 1,203,622 individuals. Other species recorded near the time of count: Black Duck, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The blackbird-starling roost is located at the eastern edge of Madisonville. It is at the rear of the National Guard Armory, partially in a former small lake bed (drained in recent years when the spillway burst and was not repaired) and extends from this low wooded area up a west side hill to a Girl Scout Camp.

This appears to be the second season for this large roost. The figures given are, hopefully, conservative. A detailed scientific study is yet to be

made.—Thomas Brizendine, James W. Hancock (compiler), James Wilkin-son.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centered to include all of the park's deciduous and pine woods, fields, and Pennyrile Lake; adjoining farmlands, and Lake Beshear).—Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Heavy overcast, occasional drizzle; temp. 25° to 49°; wind SW, 1-7 m.p.h. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 15 (13 on foot, 2 by car); total party-miles, 56 (15 on foot, 41 by car). Total, 41 species, 491 individuals. Golden-crowned Kinglets found in good numbers, but we noted the scarcity of Blue Jays and sparrows, and the apparent absence of Robins.—Willard Gray, Gregory Hancock, James W. Hancock (compiler), Chesley Kemp, Edwin Larson.

HENDERSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center new Henderson County courthouse; and includes Ohio River from the mouth of the Green River and downstream to north half of Diamond Island. We did not get anyone to work river or sloughs this year).—Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 30° to 31°; wind WSW to S, 10-9 m.p.h.; early light fog. Ten observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 32 (8 on foot, 24 by car); total party-miles, 40 (6 on foot, 34 by car). Total, 51 species, 1,545 individuals.—King Benson, Mrs. Lora Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Larue Cleveland, Mrs. Illa Gatlin, Mrs. W. D. Owens, John Pfings-ton, W. P. Rhoads (compiler), David Ross, Mrs. Ike G. Utley.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center ?—none given—Ed.; woods 30%, fields 10%, abandoned fields 25%, road-side ditches 25%, lakes and river 5%, grassy meadows [airport] 5%.—Dec. 28; ? a.m. to ? p.m. Cloudy, rain and occasional showers; temp. 30° to 40°; wind, 20 m.p.h. Five observes in ? parties. Total party-hours ? (? on foot, ? by car); total party-miles 63 (13 on foot, 50 by car). Total, 43 species, 3,476 individuals.—Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center approximately 3½ miles east of Yelvington, on US 60; about the same territory as in previous years, except a much smaller section of Pup Creek bottoms and two country roads were not covered due to lack of ob-servers. Also, the Boy Scout Camp was not checked).—Dec. 21; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cloudy and overcast, light rain in afternoon; temp. 32° to 36°; wind variable, 3-10 m.p.h. Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 16 (9 on foot, 7 by car); total party-miles, 40 (9 on foot, 31 by car). Total, 55 species, 1,383 individuals.—Ted Curtis, Mrs. Lawanda Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Powell, Jr. (compiler), and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Whalen.

BOWLING GREEN (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green; farmland 25%, stream-banks 30%, suburban 15%, swamps and woods 30%).—Dec. 21; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 31° to 41°; wind W, 5-15 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 33 (15 on foot, 18 by car); Total party-

miles, 135 (20 on foot, 115 by car). Total, 54 species, 3,157,301 individuals.—Scott Ford, Millard Gipson, Robert Pace, Homer Parrent, S. J. Pickard, D. P. Russell, M. W. Russell, Herbert Shadowen (compiler), Jeffrey Shadowen, Michael Shadowen, Gordon Wilson.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Driveout, almost every section of the park covered).—Dec. 29; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy all day until about 4:00 p.m.; temp. 25° to 38°; wind, mostly still. Nineteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 54 (46 on foot, 8 by car); total party-miles, 75 (25 on foot, 50 by car). Total, 49 species, 1,239 individuals.

The 49 species recorded was only slightly below the median for the thirteen cooperative counts in the park, but the individual count was barely above the 1963 low.

Two species never before recorded on Mid-Winter Counts were added—the Blue-winged Teal and Common Snipe. The teal were found by the Shadowen party on the park's west side and the snipe flushed by Dr. Wilson's party on Joppa Ridge. The Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper were recorded in larger numbers than ever before, and the 56 Downy Woodpeckers matched the highest previous count.

The failure of some parties to find any sparrows at all was not unexpected, but the overall scarcity of Blue Jays and Robins was most unusual. The 10 Yellow-shafted Flickers was a new low for that species.

This was the first count—ever—when the three species of owls were found.—Frank Abrams, Mrs. H. B. Clark, Mrs. George J. Ellis, Jr., Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), A. L. Powell, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Lewis L. Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Marvin Ray, Dwight Russell, Marvin Russell, Herbert Shadowen, Jeffrey Shadowen, Michael Shadowen, Russell Starr, Ronald Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Whalen, Gordon Wilson.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center York Place, Douglas Drive in Glasgow; wooded and open areas west of Glasgow: Starr, Wininger, and Elmore farms; farming areas and surroundings south of Glasgow: Brigadoon, Kinslow, and Gillenwater farms; Barren Reservoir ramps and bridges in Barren County).—Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Clear; temp. 9° to 24°; wind W, 14 m.p.h. Ponds and ground frozen; ground bare. Five observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours and total party-miles not given—Ed. Total, 53 species, 5,553 individuals. Species observed during week but not on count day: Turkey Vulture, American Woodcock, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Myrtle Warbler. The Golden-crowned Kinglets and Brown Creepers had been more numerous than usual but were conspicuously absent on the day of the count.

The Evening Grosbeaks were seen in company with a small flock of Purple Finches, feeding in an ash tree near a small pond; Mrs. Ellis had reported them at her feeding station a few days before.—Frances Ellis, Marquita Gillenwater, Cleo Hogan, Sr., Faye Starr, Russell Starr (compiler).

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center about two miles southwest of park entrance; largely area used the past three years, including some open fields outside the park, also Doe Lake; deciduous woods 19%, brushy fields 35%, open fields 26%, hedge-rows 4%, creeks and river banks 16%).—Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sleet from 7:45 to 10:00 a.m.; temp. 28° to 37°; wind SE, 6-7 m.p.h. Ponds frozen over, Otter Creek and Ohio River open. Four observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 25 (12 on foot, 13 by car); total party-miles, 84 (18 on foot, 66 by car). Total, 62 species, 2,409 individuals. Species observed during the week but not on count day: Common Goldeneye, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Loggerhead Shrike.

Hawks were well represented; the three widely separated Sharp-shins were seen at very close range by Croft and Stamm. The Rough-legged Hawk, in the light phase, was carefully observed in an open field, by Croft and Rowe. This is only the second time for this species to appear on our counts. The Peregrine Falcon flew from Indiana to the Kentucky side of the Ohio River and was carefully checked by Rowe. The Barn Owl, found at the edge of a small pine grove, is a new record for the park at any season; it was found by Anne L. Stamm.

Robins were unusually scarce, with only four recorded, in sharp contrast with last year's record of 1,811. Few Purple Finches were found, but Slate-colored Juncos were numerous.—Joseph Croft, William Rowe, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 42 and KY 22, to include Falls of the Ohio, Jeffersontown, Pewee Valley, Goshen, and southern Indiana from Jeffersonville to Utica; deciduous woods 20%, brushy fields 15%, fields and pastures 20%, swamps and marshes 5%, Ohio River and Falls of the Ohio 40%).—Dec. 22; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 36° to 54°; wind light and variable. Light to heavy rain all day, visibility poor. Twelve observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 48 (15 on foot, 33 by car). Total party-miles, 377 (13 on foot, 364 by car). Total, 76 species, 507,776 individuals.

This was the poorest count in some years. Bad weather plus illness of many observers reduced coverage considerably. In addition, waterfowl diversity was down (not affected by coverage). No rare birds were reported at all; the Oregon Junco, a well-marked adult male, was perhaps the rarest, but the species is usually recorded on our counts or during the week.

Species observed during the week but not on the count: Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Brown Thrasher, and Evening Grosbeak.—Kenneth P. Able, Leonard C. Brecher, Joseph E. Croft, Mrs. Harry Hummel, Richard L. Lattis, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), William Rowe, J. William Ruhe, Mabel Slack, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Chester Sundquist (Beckham Bird Club).

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County courthouse; no habitats given—Ed.).—Dec. 23; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy; temp. 15° to 25°; wind SW, 10-30 m.p.h. Nineteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 52 (7 on foot, 45 by car); total party-miles,

441 (15 on foot, 426 by car). Total, 56 species, 12,711 individuals.—W. C. Alcock, R. M. Bear, Charlotte Caldwell, Mrs. Sam Cheek, Sam Cheek, E. Wilbur Cook, Jackson Davis, Mrs. J. Stuart Early, Mrs. Scott Glore, Jr., Scott Glore, Jr., Edna Drill Heck, Frank H. Heck, J. W. Kemper, Tad Kreamer, Mrs. Bowman Myers, Joanne Newman, Mrs. Virgil Reid, Charles W. Whittle III, Craig Zimmerman (compiler).

FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 127 and KY 1900, 1.2 miles north of Frankfort; deciduous and cedar woods 20%, brushy fields 25%, pastures and cultivated fields 25%, Elkhorn Creek and Kentucky River bank areas 15%, town and suburbs 10%, State Game Farm and Federal Fish Hatchery ponds 5%).—Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 24° to 38°; Wind ESE, 0-10 m.p.h. Ground bare and frozen, ponds frozen, streams open. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 67 (50 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles, 194 (37 on foot, 157 by car). Total, 48 species, 3,285 individuals.

White-breasted Nuthatches are usually quite scarce in Franklin County; however, we found five in widely scattered locations. The only previous count record was for one bird on the 1966-1967 count.

We had better coverage than in past years. Land birds were well represented, with the exception of owls and blackbirds. The majority of the Robins were in a single flock and were seen shortly after daylight as they were leaving a roost.—Marvin Bing, C. M. Comeau, James S. Durrell, Bill Gray, Charles Grayson, Mary Grayson, Howard P. Jones (compiler), T. Anthony Mayeux, Suzanne C. Moore, Forest Smith (Frankfort Bird Club).

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within 15-mile diameter circle, center on KY 368, in Owen County, 5 miles east of US 127; census conducted principally in the wildlife area itself; deciduous woods 20%, cedar woods 15%, brushy fields 25%, open fields 30%, creek bottom 10%).—Dec. 20; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 26° to 43°; wind W, 10 m.p.h. Ground bare, water open. Four observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours, 11 (10 on foot, 1 by car); total party-miles, 27 (5 on foot, 22 by car). Total, 27 species, 376 individuals.

Total species and individual counts were lower than previous years. Several common species, such as Mourning Dove and Meadowlark, were not found.—Marvin Bing, James Butler, Clifford M. Comeau (compiler), James Durrell.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman on Tates Creek Pike, to include 23 miles of Kentucky River, Lexington Reservoir #1 through 4, Nicholasville, most of University of Kentucky Experimental Farm; surface water 2%, deciduous woods 3%, town and suburbs 4%, pasture, hedgerows, and farm lots 91%).—Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Stormy condition at noon; temp. 37° to 53°; wind SW switching to NW, 15-18 m.p.h. No snow cover, all water open. Sixteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours and total party-miles not given—Ed. Total, 59 species, 3,484 individuals. The Oregon Junco was observed

twice at Mrs. Feck's feeding station, and all field marks noted.—Ellen Allen, Mrs. W. R. Allen, Mrs. G. L. Burns, Lida Feck, Mrs. Patsy Feck, Michael Flynn, Roy Flynn, Mrs. Douglas Hurt, Bernice McClure, Joyce Robbins, O. K. Robbins, Robin Robbins, Andrew Uterhart (compiler), Mrs. Marion Uterhart, Conley Webster, Robert Welch.

WILLARD (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center town of Willard, same areas as in former years; creek bottoms, old fields, and woodland areas. Percentages not given—Ed.).—Dec. 26; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cloudy all day, some rain in afternoon; temp. 28° to 40°; wind variable. One observer. Total hours, 7 on foot; total miles, 8 on foot. Total, 24 species, 169 individuals.

This makes my 31st consecutive Christmas count in this area of Willard, in Carter County. I was disappointed in not seeing more birds, but the day was dark, cloudy, and cold at the start, with rain in the afternoon.—Erce! Kozee.

HENSLEY SETTLEMENT (crest of Cumberland Mountain within Bell County portion of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, between Goose's Nest and Chadwell's Gap, including Hensley Settlement area; elevation 2,900-3,300 feet; deciduous woods with some pine 85%, rhododendron glades with some hemlock 10%, open and brushy area 5%).—Jan. 1; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 2° to 15°; standing water frozen, Martin's Fork and Shillelagh Creek open; trees and ground covered with ice from rain and sleet of previous day; wind NW, 0-15 m.p.h. One observer. Hours, 10 on foot. Miles, 14 (incl. 5 backtracking), on foot. Total, 14 species, about 54 individuals. Seen in area count period but not on count day: Pileated Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch. For comments, see separate report published elsewhere in this issue.—Joseph E. Croft.

ADDITIONAL MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

(Editor's note: We regret that lack of space in the table prevented including the bird count from Lovely, Martin County; it is listed below. The total number of birds, however, is included in the overall count noted in the introduction.)

LOVELY (Area around Tug River, Wolf Creek, Buck Branch, and Rock Creek; clearings, roadsides, old fields 90%, woodlands 10%).—Dec. 28; hours spent in field not given—Ed. Blustery; temp. 40° to 50°; wind SW, 15-20 m.p.h. Total party-miles, 18 (2 on foot, 16 by car). A marked scarcity of some species was found: Hairy Woodpecker, American Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow. Also, no Pileated Woodpeckers were seen. The list follows: Bobwhite, 12; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Blue Jay, 2; Common Crow, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 15; Tufted Titmouse, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Winter Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 10; Starling, 5; Myrtle Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 55; Cardinal, 18; American Goldfinch, 2; Rufous-sided Towhee, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 40; White-throated Sparrow, 20; Song Sparrow, 2. Total, 18 species, 207 individuals.—R. L. Chapman, Rufus M. Reed (compiler).

FIELD NOTES

BROAD-WINGED HAWK FLIGHTS

Climatic conditions on September 25, 1968, seemed favorable for hawk flights. A cold front moved through Louisville the previous night, crossing the Ohio River into Kentucky and bringing early morning rains. Intermittent showers continued throughout the day until late afternoon. Heavy clouds covered most of the sky and the eight-mile per hour west-northwest wind made conditions ideal for migrating hawks. The 71-degree temperature was a pleasant relief from the previous day's high of 85 degrees.

A hurried look at the sky at noon produced nothing and a misty rain sent me indoors. However, in the late afternoon as my husband and I returned from town we noticed a large hawk just as we approached the Ten Broeck subdivision. By the time we pulled off the road to check the bird the hawk had disappeared, perhaps behind a low-hanging cloud. This was my cue to be on the alert for migrating hawks. Hurrying homeward I picked up my binoculars and pulled up a lawn chair and began to watch at 4:00 p.m. Only a few minutes had elapsed when a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) appeared flying directly overhead. Then a few unidentified buteos came from the north and they were followed by another Cooper's Hawk. A small flock of Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) appeared and drifted by without apparent effort. This was followed by occasional small flights of Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), all heading southward. Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) were active too, and high up in the sky. The hawks continued to come. The sky was literally alive with Broad-winged Hawks, especially when the largest flock—73—spiraled about. Their widely barred tails were easily seen as they passed directly overhead from north to south. My husband hurried to set up the telescope in order to get better views. One hundred and fifty-five Broad-winged Hawks passed over our house in 32 minutes! I have never seen quite so many hawks in so short a period of time. In addition, several Cooper's Hawks and unidentified buteos drifted by, totaling 173 hawks. I continued to watch until 5:30 p.m., but no hawks appeared after 4:32 p.m. Thirty-two Blue Jays were noted during the watch.—ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN CARTER COUNTY

On December 3, 1968, while driving across the bridge that spans Little Fork, a tributary of Little Sandy River near the village of Willard, Carter County, I saw a flock of about 50 Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). They flew over the bridge in front of the car, and alighted in the tall weed thickets that fringe the south bank of the stream. The grosbeaks began feeding on the weed seeds. The next morning, December 4, I saw the birds again. They were feeding in the same place. I have looked for them many times since but failed to find them.

I have only one other record for Evening Grosbeaks in this vicinity. On December 28, 1961, a flock of about 60 were noted eating weed seeds in precisely the same location. That flock stayed two or three days and then disappeared. The recent flock on December 3 and 4, 1968, seems to have acted in the same manner.—ERCEL KOZEE, Willard.

NEWS AND VIEWS

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Our newest Life Member is the versatile Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Holder of degrees from Bowdoin and Cornell, Dr. Pettingill is currently Director of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology. He is well known to our members as author, educator, world-ranging photographer, and prominent figure in many scientific organizations. KOS has been honored to count Dr. Pettingill as a member for more than 20 years, and we are now pleased to welcome him to our growing company of Life Members.

SPRING MEETING

Plan now to participate in the forty-sixth Annual Spring Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, which will be held April 11-13 at Bowling Green. This will be our fourteenth year to study the waterbirds at the transient lakes south of Bowling Green. Members will receive detailed information at a future date. Mark your calendar now.

FROM OUR MICHIGAN MEMBER

Our Michigan member, Oscar McKinley Bryens, writes that he took a Christmas Bird Count in his area of White Pigeon, Michigan, on December 29, 1968. Snow up to two and one-half inches covered the ground. In walking three and one-half miles, he recorded 17 species, and 96 individuals. The species of most interest to Kentuckians would be the Black-capped Chickadee; he recorded three. Mr. Bryens reported the scarcity of hickory nuts and acorns but a fair crop of wild grapes and juniper berries. A similar situation seems to exist here in Kentucky.

CARLYLE CHAMBERLAIN DIES

Carlyle D. Chamberlain, curator of the Louisville Free Public Library Museum, died at General Hospital, Louisville, February 7, 1969. He loved the out-of-doors and was interested in all phases of natural history. In addition to being an active member of the Beckham Bird Club, and a Life Member of the K.O.S., he also belonged to a number of historical and scientific organizations.